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of the specimen first alluded to was not entirely due to organic action.

SAMUEL T. HENSEL.

#### BONES OF A MASTODON FOUND.

LABORERS engaged in digging out muck have recently found in a swamp near Newburgh, N. Y., some of the bones of a mastodon. So far, there have been secured the lower jaw, with teeth in place; the teeth of the upper jaw; one tusk; eighteen ribs, or seven complete ones and fragments of four others; fifteen sections of the vertebræ; bones of the foot; and what is probably the skull, though in many small fragments. These bones laid at a depth varying from two to eight feet below the surface of the ground, a few in the muck, but most of them in the shell marl that underlies it. The swamp, about two acres in extent, is three quarters of a mile west of the Hudson River, one mile north of the northern limit of the city of Newburgh, and about one hundred and eighty feet above the river level. There is gently rising ground on the north and east, but directly west of the swamp the hills rise quite abruptly to a height of eighty or one hundred feet. The underlying rock beneath this muck bed appears to have a general slope to the southeast. The muck averages two feet in thickness, below which is marl, varying from a few inches to twelve feet in thickness, and under this, boulders and pebbles that form a solid bottom.

The bones found were scattered over an area about fifty by twenty feet, and in this respect they differ from those of the three mastodons found in Orange County in former years, and which were exhumed in almost the relative places they occupied when the animal was alive. The tusk found is curved, seven feet long and nearly seven inches in diameter at the root, and is in fair condition, though it showed signs of disintegration soon after removal from its resting place. Owing to the accumulation of water in the excavation, the progress of finding and removing the bones is very slow; but in a few days it may be possible to announce the finding of some other parts of the skeleton.

REGINALD GORDON.

#### THE AMERICANIST CONGRESS IN NEW YORK.

THE 13th session of the International Congress of Americanists will open at noon, Monday, October 20, and continue during the week, in the halls of the American Museum of Natural History. The hotel headquarters will be the Hotel Majestic. Lunch will be served daily at the Museum to all members. Thursday will be devoted to a trip through the parks, and visits to Columbia University, the Botanical Garden and Zoological Garden. More than eighty papers have already been offered to the Congress from nearly all the active students of Americanist subjects. The membership fee is three dollars which entitles one to all of the privileges of the meeting and to the volume of proceedings to be published later. The address of the general secretary is M. H. Saville, American Museum of Natural History, New York. It is expected that a large number of the anthropologists of the country will be present, and among the official foreign delegates are: Professor Dr. Seler, Professor Dr. von der Steiner, of Berlin, representing Prussia; Professor Dr. Stofe, of Stockholm, Sweden; Professor Dr. Schmeltz, of Leiden, Holland; Professor Lejeal, of Paris, France; Alfredo Chavero Chavero, Dr. Leon, Francisco Belmar, of Mexico; Dr. Pittier, Dr. Ferraz, of Costa Rica. After the meeting the foreign guests will be given an excursion to Philadelphia, Washington, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Chicago to visit the scientific and educational institutions of those cities. A visit will be made to the ancient fort in Ohio known as Fort Ancient. As this is the first meeting of the Americanist Congress in the United States it is hoped that there will be a large attendance of those interested in the work of this organization, namely, to bring together students of the archeology, ethnology and early history of the two Americas, and by the reading of papers and by discussions to advance knowledge of these subjects.

#### THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS.

In its report of the Belfast meeting of the British Association *Nature* says:

A noteworthy event of the meeting was the speech given by Professor C. S. Minot, President of the American Association, in which he invited members of the British Association to attend the meeting to be held early next January at Washington. Professor Minot said he had been directed by the council of his Association to express the hope that as many members as possible of the British Association would attend the Washington meeting. A vote had been passed to the effect that all members of the British Association would be received upon presenting themselves at the meetings in America as members of the American Association without further requirements. In future, as has already been announced in these columns, the annual meetings of the American Association will begin on the first Monday after Christmas and extend throughout the week. The scientific societies affiliated with the Association have agreed to this arrangement, and the universities have consented to the establishment of this 'Convocation Week,' in which the meetings of scientific societies are to be held. It is expected that the first meeting to be held next January under this rule will be the most important scientific gathering ever held in America. In the course of his remarks, Professor Minot said:

It was the duty, he believed, which they should all perform to attend these gatherings and take part in international intercourse. Many Americans had come to the British Association, and they had always been treated with the greatest hospitality. They arrived strangers and went away friends; they brought expectations, and took back realizations and a grateful memory. He asked for one moment in which to remind them of a new historic condition never existing in the world before. It was the first time that two great nations existed with a common speech, a common past, a common history; would they not therefore so work together that they might build up a common future? And for the scientific man this duty came first. Each nation was governed not by the government, but by the men of learning and above all by the universities. Nowhere, he believed, in the Anglo-Saxon world had science yet taken its place in the universities. Nowhere in the Anglo-Saxon world had the full value of scientific knowledge throughout the

whole range of life, from the university down to every practical affair—nowhere, he said, had the full power of the world of science been established.

Professor Dewar, in replying on behalf of the Association, said:

They were all delighted to hear the kind invitation which had been extended to the members of the Association by their brother workers on the other side of the Atlantic. The great blunder we in the United Kingdom were perpetrating for many years past was in remaining ignorant of what was being done on the other side of the Atlantic. He had again and again said to manufacturers and those interested in industrial progress that if they would subsidize their chief officials by a donation which would enable them to spend their short holiday by going to see what could be seen during a three weeks' residence in the United States, to note how they economize time there, how a person could be transferred from place to place, the freedom with which one is allowed to see the great internal organization—if they did that they would be repaid one-hundredfold. He did not know of anything that had occurred to himself personally which had affected him so much as a short visit which he had the honor of paying to America. Both in the universities and in applied industries it was a revelation to him, and he was sure it would be a personal gratification to every member of that association, and an entirely new revelation to them, if they took advantage of the invitation offered. He hoped some of the officials of the British Association would be present on the great occasion in Washington.

#### *THE METRIC SYSTEM IN GREAT BRITAIN.*

CONSUL-GENERAL H. CLAY EVANS sends to the Department of State from London, August 30, 1902, a letter from the secretary of the Decimal Association, showing the progress of efforts to have the metric system of weights and measures adopted in England. The letter says:

It has come to my knowledge that there is a considerable feeling in favor of the adoption of the metric weights and measures in the United States of America, and with this in mind, I am sure that you will be interested in information regarding the prospect of this country adopting metric weights and measures also.